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Russian Federation

Biotechnology

Federal Law sets Biotech Labeling Threshold at 0.9 Percent

2007

Approved by:

Kimberly Svec
U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

Yelena Vassilieva, Kimberly Svec, Mikael Pyrtel

Report Highlights:

On October 25, 2007, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed Federal Law #234-FZ titled "On Amendments to the Federal Law of the Russian Federation On Protection of Consumer Rights" and to the "Second Part of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation". Russia's new law is consistent with European Union regulations, and raises the threshold for mandatory labeling of food ingredients made from genetically engineered material (GMOs) to 0.9 percent. Prior to the amendment, trace amounts of GMO food ingredients required labeling.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Trade Report
Moscow [RS1]
[RS]

Executive Summary

On October 25, 2007, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed Federal Law #234-FZ titled "On Amendments to the Federal Law of the Russian Federation On Protection of Consumer Rights" and to the "Second Part of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation". Russia's new law is consistent with European Union regulations, and raises the threshold for mandatory labeling of food ingredients made from genetically engineered material (GMOs) to 0.9 percent. Prior to the amendment, trace amounts of GMO food ingredients required labeling.

The use of bioetch food ingredients is a politically sensitive issue in Russia, and last week Deputies of the Moscow Duma appealed to President Putin not to sign the amendment, and instead maintain the original law that required mandatory labeling of any presence of GMO material in food.

Rossiyskaya Gazeta published the law on October 27, 2007, which will enter into force on December 12, 2007.

0.9 Percent Biotech Threshold in the Consumers' Rights Protection Law

The amended paragraph of Article 10 Item 2, reads as following¹:

Article 10. Information about Goods (Tasks, Services)

...

2. Information about Goods (tasks, services) shall contain the following:

...

data on the basic consumer properties of goods (tasks, services); as for foodstuffs, information about their composition (including the names of food additives used in the process of making foodstuffs, of biologically active additives, information on the presence in foodstuffs of components produced with the use of organisms modified by genetic engineering, **in cases when the presence of these organisms in the component is more than nine tenth of a percent**), on food value, purpose, conditions of use and storage of foodstuffs, on the ways of cooking ready-made dishes, on the weight (volume), date and place of manufacture, packing (parceling) of foodstuffs, as well as data on counter indications to their consumption in the case of certain diseases. The list of commodities (tasks and services) information on which should contain counter indications to their application in certain diseases, shall be endorsed by the Government of the Russian Federation;...

Other Relevant Reports

RS7053 Biotechnology/Russia Establishes 0.9 % Threshold for Biotech Labeling

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200707/146291830.pdf>

RS7028 Biotechnology/ Russian Sanitary Inspector Strengthens Control over Biotech Food

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200703/146280576.pdf>

RS7023 Biotechnology/"GMO-Free" Labeling in Food Products in Moscow

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200703/146280370.pdf>

RS7052 Biotechnology/Annual Report/2007

¹ The amendment is in bold letters. The non-official translation of the previous reading of Article 10 of the Federal Law "on Protection of Consumers' Rights" is given in GAIN Report RS6015 Trade Policy Monitoring/Consumer Information about Goods.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200707/146291797.pdf>

RS6014 Biotechnology/GMO Labeling Requirements

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200603/146187244.pdf>

RS6015 Trade Policy Monitoring/Consumer Information about Goods

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200603/146187245.pdf>